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TRANSMITTAL FORM

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Total Number of Pages in This Submission

13

Application Number

09/747,529

Filing Date

12/22/2000

First Named Inventor

Sheppard, Jr.

Art Unit

1771

Examiner Name

Befumo, Jenna Leigh

Attorney Docket Number

2827

ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)

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<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached	<input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers	<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences
<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment/Reply	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Petition	<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to TC (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief)
<input type="checkbox"/> After Final	<input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application	<input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information
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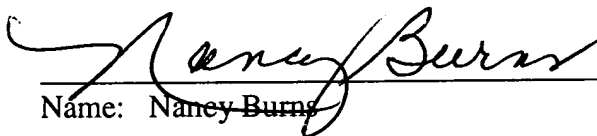
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Docket: 2827

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant)	James M. Sheppard JR.
Application No.)	09/747,529
Filed)	12/22/2000
Title)	JACQUARD WOVEN TEXTILE WITH GRAPHIC IMPRESSION AND A METHOD OF MAKING THE SAME
Examiner)	Befumo, Jenna Leigh
Art Unit)	1771
Attorney Docket)	2827

Charlotte, North Carolina
November 22, 2006

Mail Stop Petition
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Petition under 37 CFR § 1.181

Dear Sir,

The Director is asked to invoke his supervisory authority and direct the examiner to withdraw the dismissal of the appeal and resulting abandonment of the above captioned application and restore the application to "pending" status. In addition, the Director is asked to instruct the examiner that the Amended Appeal Brief, filed August 3, 2006, is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR § 41.37 with or without the proposed amendment to the Brief discussed below and should be taken up for consideration on the merits.

This application is related to Application No. 09/837,094. Both applications are being examined by the same examiner and she has taken the same action in each

application. A petition is being filed concurrently in the related application. It is requested that the two petitions be considered together.

Statement of Facts

1. A first Appeal Brief was filed on May 15, 2006.
2. The examiner entered a "Miscellaneous Action" on July 5, 2006.
3. The "Miscellaneous Action" included a "Notice of Non-Compliant Appeal Brief."
4. In relevant part, the examiner objected to the "Summary of Claimed Subject Matter" section required by 37 CFR § 41.37(c)(1)(v).
5. The examiner set forth two reasons why the "Summary of claimed subject matter" section was deemed not to comply with this section of the rules:
 - a. The summary should be limited "only to the subject matter being claimed in the appealed claims and not a summary of the entire disclosure." Box 10 of notice of non-compliant brief.
 - b. The summary should "map each claimed feature to where it is discussed in the disclosure." *Id.*
6. Appellant filed an Amended Appeal Brief on August 3, 2006.
7. In regard to the first objection raised by the examiner, appellant cited to the commentary accompanying the appeal rules at page 1 of the cover letter of the Amended Appeal Brief as follows:

The determination of how "concise" the explanation must be will need to be determined on a case-by-case basis. If the prosecution and examination has been based upon a discussion of the patentability of individual claims instead of the "invention," it is expected the explanation will be more "concise" than if the prosecution and examination has been conducted on the basis of the "invention." As to what is required, the proposed rule states that reference to the specification by page and line number, and to the drawing, if any, by reference characters is required. *Appellant may include any other information of record which will aid the Board in considering the subject matter of each independent claim.*" 49976 Federal Register / Vol. 69, No. 155 / Thursday, August 12, 2004 / Rules and Regulations, Comment 53.

8. In regard to the second objection raised by the examiner, appellant provided a claim chart for the independent claims on appeal, claims 21 and 29.
9. The claim chart appears as Table 1 at pages 24-25 of the Amended Appeal Brief.
10. The claim chart is explicitly referenced in the "Summary of Claimed Subject Matter" section of the Amended Appeal Brief. See pages 5-6 of the Amended Appeal Brief.
11. The examiner entered a second "Miscellaneous Action" on November 7, 2006.
12. The Miscellaneous Action included a "Communication Re: Appeal."
13. The communication stated that the appeal was dismissed (Box 3) and that the case was abandoned (Box 4).
14. The examiner states at page 2 of the communication, that appellant "explicitly declined to correct the informalities noted by the examiner."
15. The examiner also states two reasons in the communication why the "Summary of the claimed subject matter" section of the Amended Appeal Brief" was improper:
 - a. "The Summary is not directed to the claimed invention, but rather, features not represented in the claims. That is, it represents a summary of the disclosure, not the claims."
 - b. "[T]he Summary does not identify which independent claim is being summarized, if any, nor identify where the features and claims are found in the specification. Additionally, the table provided by Appellant is not found in the Summary and cannot be considered part of the Summary."
16. In regard to reason a., the examiner did not acknowledge that the commentary to the appeal rules expressly states appellant can provide any additional information believed to aid the Board in understanding the claimed subject matter.

17. In regard to reason b., the examiner did not explain why 37 CFR § 41.37(c)(1)(v) or cite any other authority that prohibits reference to a claim chart in the “Summary of claimed subject matter” section of an appeal brief.

Analysis

37 CFR § 41.37(c)(1)(v) provides in relevant part:

Summary of claimed subject matter. A concise explanation of the subject matter defined in each of the independent claims involved in the appeal, which shall refer to the specification by page and line number, and to the drawing, if any, by reference characters.

As seen, the rule neither prescribes, nor proscribes a particular format or manner in which the required information is to be arranged in an appeal brief. Nor does the rule prohibit the presence of additional information from the record of the application under appeal that appellant believes would aid the Board to come to an understanding of the subject matter of a claim. Thus, both reasons a. and b. given by the examiner in support of her decision to dismiss the appeal and abandon the application are without authority and constitute, at the least, an abuse of discretion.

In regard to reason a., appellant pointed out in the cover letter of the Amended Appeal Brief that the commentary to the appeal rules expressly states that “Appellant may include any other information of record which will aid the Board in considering the subject matter of each independent claim.” 49976 Federal Register / Vol. 69, No. 155 / Thursday, August 12, 2004 / Rules and Regulations, Comment 53. The examiner did not acknowledge or respond to this portion of appellant’s response in maintaining reason a.

In regard to reason b., appellant decided to arrange the Amended Appeal Brief by making reference to Table 1 in the Summary of claimed subject matter section instead of physically including Table 1 at the portion of the brief for the convenience of the reader. It was thought that the claim chart set forth in Table 1 would

be printed separately by the reader and relied upon as a resource while the reader was considering the remainder of the Amended Appeal Brief, including the "Summary of the claimed subject matter" section. Again, the rule does not prohibit reference in this section of an appeal brief to a table that is physically located at a different place in the appeal brief. The examiner does not cite to any other authority in support of her determination that the Amended Appeal Brief is non-compliant for this reason. The examiner is without authority to impose her own subjective view of how an appeal brief should be organized and make requirements as here that are not required by 37 CFR § 41.37.

Relief Requested

Alternative 1

The Director is requested to invoke his supervisory authority and direct the examiner to withdraw the abandonment of the application, reinstate the appeal, find the Amended Appeal Brief filed August 3, 2006, to be in compliance with 37 CFR § 41.37 and consider the brief on the merits. For the facts and reasons set forth above, the examiner's actions in dismissing the appeal and abandoning the application are, at the least, an abuse of discretion, if not arbitrary and capricious.

Alternative 2

The examiner set forth her subjective desire to have Table 1 physically incorporated in the "Summary of claimed subject matter" section of the Amended Appeal Brief for the first time in the "Communication Re: Appeal" issued November 7, 2006. Importantly, the examiner did not criticize the substance of Table 1. Thus, it is reasonable to assume that Table 1 complies with the requirement of 37 CFR § 41.37(c)(1)(v) to explain "the subject matter defined in each of the independent claims involved in the appeal, which shall refer to the specification by page and line number, and to the drawing, if any, by reference characters." Since appellant has not had an

opportunity until now to consider the examiner's subjective requirement, a copy of an amended "Summary of the claimed subject matter" is attached in an attempt to comply with this new requirement.

Therefore, in the alternative, the Director is requested to invoke his supervisory authority and direct the examiner to withdraw the abandonment of the application, reinstate the appeal, find the Amended Appeal Brief of August 3, 2006, as further amended by the accompanying "Summary of claimed subject matter" section, to be in compliance with 37 CFR § 41.37 and consider the brief on the merits. Since appellant was not given an opportunity to comply with the examiner's subjective requirement as to how the Amended Appeal Brief is to be organized, her actions in dismissing the appeal and abandoning the case were an abuse of discretion, if not arbitrary and capricious.

FEES

It is not believed that any fees are due with this petition.



Attachment

Amended Summary of claimed subject matter section for Application No. 09/747,529 per MPEP 1205.03

SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER (37 C.F.R. § 41.37(c)(1)(v))

Table 1 provided immediately below, maps each claimed feature of independent claims 21 and 29 to their relevant disclosure in the Application.

TABLE 1

Claim 21	Stark v. Parker v. Sherrill
Weaving a towel on a Dobby loom using at least 2 different colors. Application as filed (A.A.F.), page 6, paragraphs 2-3.	Stark does not disclose a specific weaving loom.
	Parker utilizes a Jacquard loom.
	Sherrill does not disclose a specific weaving loom.
Such that a border having a first darker color is woven adj. each edge on one side thereof. A.A.F., page 7, paragraph 2; page 8, paragraph 2.	Neither Stark nor Parker has this. Sherrill has a border defined by printing.
And a border having a second lighter color is woven adj. each edge of said towel on the other side. A.A.F. page 7, paragraph 2.	Neither Stark nor Parker nor Sherrill has this.
Said towel having a central area woven within the borders on both sides. A.A.F. page 7, paragraph 2.	There is a central area but no borders. Sherrill has a central area on only one side.
Said central area on other side is woven with 1 st color. A.A.F. page 7, paragraph 2.	There is a central area but no borders.
Said central on said one side is woven in a 2 nd color. A.A.F. page 7, paragraph 2.	There is a central area but no borders. Sherrill's border is same color as central area.
Forming a graphic impression in said central area on said one	Park discloses printing, but

side. A.A.F. page 8, paragraph 1.	not within a central area. Sherrill discloses this.
Said border on said one side is capable of masking said graphic impression that may overlap onto said border from said central area on said one side. A.A.F. page 8, paragraph 1; page 9 paragraph 4 – page 10, paragraph 1; figure 3.	Neither Stark nor Parker nor Sherrill has this.
Said central area on said second side is capable of masking any potential bleed through of said graphic impression from said central area of said one side. A.A.F. page 8, paragraph 2 – page 9, paragraph 2.	Neither Stark nor Parker nor Sherrill has this.

TABLE 1 (continued)

Claim 29

Stark v. Parker v. Sherrill

A textile having edges about its periphery. A.A.F., page 6, paragraphs 2 - page 7, paragraph 1.	Each of Stark, Parker, and Sherrill has this feature.
Said textile having first and second sides. A.A.F. page 7, paragraph 2.	Each of Stark, Parker, and Sherrill has this feature.
Each side having a border adjacent said edges and surrounding a central area. A.A.F. page 7, paragraph 2.	Neither Stark nor Parker have borders or corresponding central areas Sherrill has an outer region with printed designs.
Said graphic impression to be positioned only within the central area on said first side. A.A.F. page 8, paragraph 1.	Neither Stark nor Parker discloses this. Sherrill et al. discloses this in Figure 1.
The border on the first side and the central area on the second side have a first color, while the central area on the first side and the border on the second side have a second color. A.A.F. page 7, paragraph 2.	Neither Stark, Parker, nor Sherrill discloses this.
Said border on said first side is capable of masking said graphic impression that may overlap onto said border from said central area on said [first] side, eliminating the need for precise	Neither Stark, Parker, nor Sherrill discloses this feature.

alignment of said graphic impression within said central area of said first side. A.A.F. page 8, paragraph 1; page 9 paragraph 4 – page 10, paragraph 1; figure 3.	
Said central area on said second side is capable of masking any potential bleed through of said graphic impression from said central area on said first side.” A.A.F. page 8, paragraph 2 – page 9, paragraph 2.	Neither Stark, Parker, nor Sherrill discloses this feature.

In the weaving of terry toweling, three series of yarns are employed: (a) pile warp which produces the loops for the pile surface (b) ground warp from which the pile warp projects and (c) weft which binds the two warps together.

Jacquard weaving is a well-known process that can be employed for creating thick, luxurious pile textile items capable of having a velour or looped terry nap. This weaving process can employ two different colors in the linear band of the warp filaments when fabricating the textile.¹ Colors and patterns in a jacquard article are restricted to the two colors employed in a given linear direction of the woven article. Pile warp that is not utilized on the front pattern surface can be woven into terry loops on the reverse side of the textile, woven into the ground warp and weft fibers to create a non-looped, flat weave on the reverse side, or allowed to “float” as unwoven fibers along the backside. This limits the utility for these types of articles, since many designs and logos cannot be adequately reproduced within the confines of the jacquard two-color scheme.

Printing processes on jacquard fabrics have been limited to preprinting the warp filaments with an elongated vertical pattern such that when woven, a jacquard article with more than 2 colors can be achieved. This process requires elaborate computer controlled printing onto the filaments, and very precise monitoring of the weaving process. Printing a pattern post-weave on an article has been employed in non-jacquard situations, but this results in an article that is largely limited to a single color on the nonprinted side of the article. Printing on the reverse side of the non-jacquard article is largely prohibited due to the likelihood that the separately printed images on opposite sides of the article will

¹ U.S. Pat. App. No. 09/747,529 as filed, page 2, paragraph 3.

bleed through the article and disfigure the images on both printed sides. Post printing also has the undesirable side effect of decreasing the absorbency of the towel.

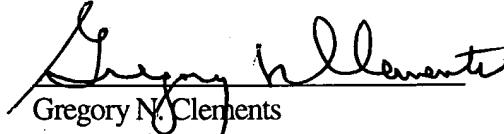
Appellant has recognized the deficiencies of both the jacquard weaving process, namely the limitation of a two-color scheme in a linear band, and the traditional printing process (wherein the finished article is limited to a single color in the unprinted area) and has created the novel "Edge® Towel," an embodiment of claim 21. Claim 21 uses jacquard weaving to form a towel having a central light colored area, surrounded by a dark border. The reverse side of the towel is a dark colored central area surrounded by a light colored border. A design can be positioned in the light colored central area of the first side. The dark colored border surrounding the light central area is capable of masking any printed pattern that might overlap onto the border from the central area. This eliminates the need for precise alignment and monitoring that is mandatory in the preprinted filament process.² Likewise, the dark central area on the reverse side of the article is capable of masking any potential bleed through of the design on the light colored central area of side one. This allows the printed image to be applied so as to result in a graphic that is more intensely colored than woven articles that are limited to a single front and rear color.³

Additionally, affixing a design on a jacquard article as set forth in Claims 21 and 29 gave the unexpected result of producing an image that was more crisp and sharp than other towels. The inventor attributes this surprising result to the increased density of the pile loops on a jacquard article as compared to other woven articles. Thus, viewing an image on a jacquard fabric is not unlike watching high definition television: the picture is more clear and sharp than the picture available on the alternative.

² U.S. Pat. App. No. 09/747,529 as filed, page 9, paragraph 4 through page 10, paragraph 1.

³ Id., at page 8, paragraph 2.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregory N. Clements", written over a horizontal line.

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